

Message Text

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ARA - MR. KUBISCH

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S/S -MR. FRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117984

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, XIM

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO BRAZILIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER SILVEIRA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY KISSIN-
GER TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBEE
TIME:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR ANTONIO: A GREAT DEAL HAS HAPPENED
SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER IN ATLANTA. RECALLING OUR
PAST CONVERSATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, I THOUGHT YOU
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MY IMPRESSIONS OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIR-
ED IN THAT AREA DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

3. IT WAS CLEAR AFTER THE EGYPT-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED JANUARY 18 THAT A SIMILAR STEP WITH
RESPECT TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE
MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE THAT WAS BEING GATHERED WAS NOT TO
BE LOST. HAPPILY, BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL EXPRESSED
INTEREST INSUCH AN AGREEMENT AND IN UTILIZING AMERICAN
GOOD OFFICES TO ACHIEVE IT.

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4. WE KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION, AND IT WAS INDEED ARDUOUS. THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES WERE FAR APART INITIALLY AND IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE MOST PAINSTAKING EFFORT THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THEM WAS CLOSED.

BUT, I WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER TENACIOUSLY THE TWO SIDES ADVANCED THEIR POSITIONS, I WAS ALWAYS CONVINCED OF THEIR GOOD FAITH AND SERIOUSNESS OF INTENT. THE DEPLORABLE EVENTS OF MAALOT AND SUBSEQUENT ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST TARGETS IN LEBANON DID NOT DIVERT THEM FROM THEIR GOAL. BOTH SIDES CLEARLY WANTED THIS AGREEMENT AND WOULD NOT BE TURNED AWAY FROM IT BY A CHAIN OF EVENTS INSTIGATED BY EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL ELEMENTS. I BELIEVE THIS CAN BE A GOOD AUGURY FOR THE WHOLE PEACE PROCESS.

5. THE AGREEMENT ITSELF IS WELL DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MAIN PURPOSES. THE CEASE-FIRE IS TO BE SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED FROM THE DATE OF ITS SIGNING. THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES WILL BE SEPARATED BY A BUFFER ZONE AND THE LEVELS OF THEIR ARMAMENTS WILL BE LIMITED ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS ZONE. A UNITED NATIONS FORCE WILL BE EMPLACED TO INSPECT COMPLIANCE. PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE BODIES OF THE DEAD WILL BE EXCHANGED. IN BRIEF, ALL THE PAINFUL, VEXING ELEMENTS EXISTING IN THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION THAT HAVE PRODUCED AND PERPETUATED A BLOODY WAR OF ATTRITION IN RECENT MONTHS WILL BE REMOVED OR NEUTRALIZED.

6. WE MUST OF COURSE, RECOGNIZE REALISTICALLY WHAT THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT. IT IS NOT A PEACE AGREEMENT, AS ITS FINAL PARAGRAPH STATES; IT IS A STEP TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 OF OCTOBER 22, 1973. THE BASIC ISSUES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA REMAIN, AND IF THIS NEGOTIATION IS ANY INDICATION, THEIR RESOLUTION WILL BE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX.

7. BUT I BELIEVE WE MAY BE PERMITTED REAL HOPE FOR THE FUTURE BY WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. AS PRESIDENT NIXON HAS SAID, A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO A PERMANENT SETTLE-
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MENT HAS BEEN REMOVED. WE CONSIDER THIS AGREEMENT TO BE A PIVOTAL ONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1949, SYRIA HAS MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL; THIS CANNOT FAIL TO HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON OTHER ARAB STATES WHO HAVE RESISTED ANY COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATION. FOR ARAB STATES ALREADY EMBARKED ON THIS COURSE THE AGREEMENT CAN ONLY REINFORCE THEIR COMMITMENT. FOR ISAREL, THE AGREEMENT MEANS A

SURCEASE, IN WHICH ITS OWN THINKING ABOUT THE SHAPE OF ITS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS CAN FURTHER EVOLVE.

8. THE SYRIA-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS AN

IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. A FOUNDATION IS NOW ESTABLISHED WITHIN WHICH THE SHOOTING CAN STOP AND PREPARATIONS CAN BEGIN FOR CONSIDERING THOSE BASIC ISSUES THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN A PEACE AGREEMENT.

9. TURNING TO OUR OWN HEMISPHERE, I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO CONVENE THE TWO WORKING GROUPS WHICH WE AGREED UPON AT OUR LAST MEETING AND THAT BRAZIL WILL BE HOSTING THE WORKING GROUP ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY LATER THIS MONTH IN BRASILIA. WHAT WE DO IN THIS FIELD HOLDS GREAT PROMISE AND I AM GLAD THAT THE LEADERSHIP IS IN YOUR HANDS.

10. WARMEST REGARDS, HENRY. END TEXT. GDS KISSINGER

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